

In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for filling deepened portions-(28) of a sample carrier-(26) with chemical and/or biological liquids whereincomprising:

~~a positioning step for positioning a liquid dispensing device-(10) above a first deepened portion-(28) is performed~~, the liquid dispensing device (10) comprising a liquid chamber-(12) which, for generating the droplets-(24), is subjected to an activating pulse-(34) provided by a pulse generator-(22),

in a liquid dispensing step, producing at least one series of droplets-is ~~produced~~, wherein in a series of droplets a plurality of droplets-(24) are dispensed into the first deepened portion-(28), and

performing plural repetitions-are performed of the positioning step for positioning the liquid dispensing device-(10) above further deepened portions-(28) as well as of the liquid dispensing step for dispensing a plurality of droplets-(24) in at least one series of droplets into this deepened portion-(28),

~~characterized by~~

wherein a damping pulse-(38,46) generated by the pulse generator (22) at the end of the series of droplets for damping the postoscillation of the liquid dispensing device-(10).

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1 wherein, at the beginning of the liquid dispensing step, a prepulse-(40) of a higher amplitude than that of the activating pulse-(34) is generated by the pulse generator-(22) prior to the first activating pulse-(34).

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for filling deepened portions-(28) of a sample carrier-(26) with chemical and/or biological liquids whereincomprising:

~~a positioning step for positioning a liquid dispensing device-(10) above a first deepened portion-(28) is performed, the liquid dispensing device (10) comprising a liquid chamber-(12) which, for generating the droplets-(24), is subjected to an activating pulse-(34) provided by a pulse generator-(22),~~

in a liquid dispensing step, producing at least one series of droplets ~~is produced~~, wherein in a series of droplets a plurality of droplets-(24) are dispensed into the first deepened portion-(28), and

performing plural repetitions ~~are performed~~ of the positioning step for positioning the liquid dispensing device-(10) above further deepened portions-(28) as well as of the liquid dispensing step for dispensing a plurality of droplets-(24) in at least one series of droplets into this deepened portion-(28),

~~characterized by~~

—wherein a prepulse-(40) generated by the pulse generator-(22) at the start of the series of droplets and transmitted prior to the first activating pulse, the amplitude of the prepulse-(40) being larger than that of the activating pulse-(34).

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 3 wherein, at the end of the liquid dispensing step, a damping pulse-(38,46) is generated by the pulse generator-(22) for damping the postoscillation of the liquid dispensing device-(10).
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 4~~ wherein, in operation at resonant frequency, the damping pulse-(46) is generated by phase reversal of the activating pulse.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, ~~2, 4 or 5~~

wherein the damping pulse~~(46)~~ is generated substantially after the dispensing of the last droplet~~(24)~~ dispensed for filling.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1,~~2, 4, 5 or 6~~ wherein the damping pulse~~(46)~~ substantially counteracts the preset oscillation of the liquid dispensing device.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claims 1,~~2 or 4-7~~ wherein the amplitude of the damping pulse~~(46)~~ is at least 20%; preferably at least 30% of the amplitude of the activating pulse~~(44)~~.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claims 1,~~2 or 4-8~~ wherein the duration of the damping pulse is longer, preferably by 3 to 15% and more preferably by 5 to 10%, than the duration of the activating pulse~~(44)~~.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim~~any one of claims 2-9~~ wherein the amplitude of the prepulse~~(40)~~ is at least 20%; preferably at least 50% and more preferably 50 to 100% larger than of the amplitude~~(A)~~ of the activating pulse~~(38)~~.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to ~~any one of claims 2-10~~ wherein the prepulse~~(40)~~ causes the first droplet to be dispensed.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1-11~~ wherein, for filling the deepened portion~~(28)~~, at least 5; preferably at least 10 and more preferably at least 20 droplets are dispensed.
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ wherein the liquid dispensing device~~(10)~~ is operated at resonant frequency.
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1-13~~ wherein the dispensing of liquid is performed via a capillary chamber~~(18)~~ provided in the liquid dispensing device~~(10)~~ and

connected to the liquid chamber (12).

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